Regulations on Minimum Standard Requirement for Medical colleges for 50/100/150 MBBS Admission Annually. Relaxations have been given in the norms for land requirement criteria for campus, bed strength, indoor occupancy for opening of medical colleges in the States where National Rural Health Mission is operational, North Eastern States, Hill States and Hilly districts in other States. For opening of new Medical Colleges in these areas the total land requirement will be 20 acres in not more than two pieces of land separated by a distance of 15 k.m. as against 25 acres prescribed for other parts of the country. The land separated by a road or canal connected with a bridge shall be treated as one piece of land for opening of Medical Colleges. The criteria relating to bed strength in the teaching hospitals at the time of starting Medical College has been revised to 250 beds as against the 300 beds prescribe for other parts of the country. The criteria for indoor bed occupancy in these areas has been revised to 60%. This will help in opening of new medical colleges in unserved and under-served areas of the country and also increase the number of medical colleges as well as production of doctors in the country. The Ministry has sent 68 proposals for establishment of new medical colleges during the year 2009-10, for their technical evaluation and recommendation as per the provisions of the Medical Council of India (MCI) Regulations. As per the time schedule prescribed in the MCI regulations the last date for grant of permission by Central Government is 115th July of each year.

Mental healthcare facilities

637. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7 per cent Indians or around 7 crore people in the country suffer from mental disorder in one or the other form, but the healthcare facilities are woefully inadequate;

(b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken up this serious issue with the Medical Council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to address this concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to a recent survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), the prevalence of mental disorders in the country is about 7% of the population. Close to 3% of the population need active treatment. Unlike in the past, effective medications have reduced the need for admission and facilitating patients to get back to their normal schedule first. Apart from 43 Govt. Mental Health Institutes, Psychiatric Wings of all Medical Colleges and General Hospitals provide treatment facilities for mentally ill patients.

There is, however, shortage of psychiatrists and mental health professionals in the country.

(b) and (c) Following the discussion held under the auspices of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that Medical Council of India (MCI) would create more awareness among medical colleges to take up Postgraduate course in Psychiatry to cover the shortage of manpower in the field, the NHRC had asked the MCI to indicate the steps being taken by it to increase the number

of Psychiatrists in the country. The MCI has reported that it has already granted permission during the years 2005 to 2008 for starting MD (Psychiatry) degree course to 18 institutes, DPM course to 7 institutes and increasing the number of seats in MD (Psychiatry) course to 4 Institutes. This has resulted in addition of 25 seats in MD (Psychiatry) course and 8 seats in DPM course.

(d) Under National Mental Health Programme, efforts are made to provide mental health services as a part of general health system. In this regard, Central Government supplements the State Governments' efforts through District Mental health Programme (DMHP), upgradation of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and strengthening/modernisation of Mental hospitals to make them as therapeutic units. The Central Government has proposed to restrategise the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) during the 11th five Year Plan to extend DMHP to more districts in the country in a phased manner. To address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, manpower development schemes under the NMHP for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialities are under active consideration. Training is also being provided to medical officers and health staff to implement the Programme. It has been proposed to intensify training using standard training modules both in terms of duration and frequency.

Progress made to control MMR and IMR by NRHM

638. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up new medical facilities in under-developed States *i.e.* Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand etc. under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the progress that has so far been made to control MMR/IMR in Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh etc. under this Mission;

(d) what is the status of allocation of funds under this project to Orissa and Jharkhand States during 2008-09 fiscal;

(e) whether Orissa and Jharkhand States have made certain additional demands towards development of infrastructure facilities to improve their health card among the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government of India has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially to the vulnerable section wherein financial assistance is given to the States/UTs for construction/maintenance/upgradation of rural Health Infrastructure in the States including Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand. Government of India bears the entire capital expenditure for construction/re-design of building in a phased manner over the mission period for construction and